

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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14

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 CU-04 ISO-00 MMO-04 CPR-01 NSC-05 PA-02 SS-15

USIA-15 PRS-01 /054 W

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R 340805Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9112

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

UNCLAS MBABANE 0168

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PR, US, WZ

SUBJECT: SWAZI SIBHACA DANCE TEAM VISIT TO THE U.S.

REF: STATE 021327

SWAZILAND HAS BEGUN TO MAKE SERIOUS PLANS TO SEND A SIBHACA DANCE TEAM TO THE UNITED STATE IN JUNE, IN RESPONSE TO THE INVITATION THE KING RECEIVED FROM THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA. KEN THOMPSON, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF SWAZILAND ELECTRICITY BOARD AND PRESIDENT OF THE SWAZILAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT HE AND CHRIS HARLAND, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF USUTU PULP AND THE PRESIDENT OF FEDEARTION OF SWAZILAND EMPLOYERS, HAVE BEEN ASKED BY THE KING TO DRAW UP PLANS FOR THE VISIT. THOMPSON AND HARLAND HAVE PROPOSED TO THE PRIME MINISTER THAT E100,000 BE ALLOCATED FOR THIS PURPOSE, HALF TO BE PROVIDED BY GOS HAND HALF TO BE RAISED FROM PUBLIC APPEAL (TO WHICH LEADING FIRMS AND BUSINESSMEN IN SWAZILAND WOULD BE EXPECTED TO CONTRIBUE GENEROUSLY) THOMPSON INDICATED BOTH KING AND PRIME MINISTER WERE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT SENDING THE DANCE TEAM AND HE EXPECTED A FULL-TIME ORGANIZER TO BE APPOINTED SOON.ABOUT 40 SWAZIS ARE EXPECTED TO MAKE THIS TRIP. 36 DANCERS AND 4 ASSISTANCES. PRINGLE

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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